

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 8, 2005

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
364 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Domenici:

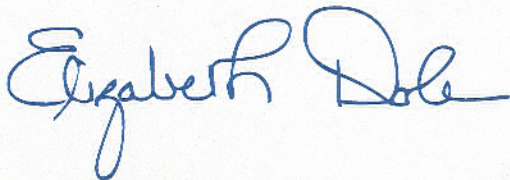
In anticipation of the introduction of energy legislation in the 109th Congress, we once again express our strong objection to any proposed provisions that would open currently restricted areas in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to oil and gas exploration. Our concern is that these provisions would improperly centralize jurisdictional authority to the Department of Interior over our nation's coastal waters, undermine legitimate states' rights, and threaten decades of effective and successful cooperation with coastal states under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). We oppose these provisions and ask for their exclusion from forthcoming energy legislation.

As you know, there is tremendous concern over language that would arbitrarily grant authority to the Secretary of Interior over a broad range of oil and gas support facilities in the OCS, including areas protected for many years by presidential and congressional moratoria. This centralization of authority would undermine well-established partnerships by failing to require adequate consultation with coastal states and the Department of Commerce, which has jurisdiction and expertise over the living marine resources of the OCS.

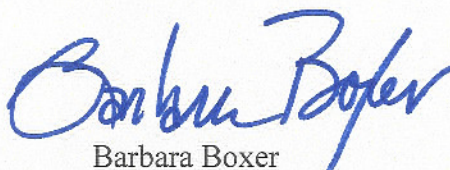
We would further have concerns with proposed measures that threaten decades of successful resolution of coastal siting issues under the CZMA. For example, we oppose efforts to weaken the CZMA's consistency guidelines and states' rights by imposing severely restrictive deadlines for decision-making by the Secretary of Commerce. These deadlines would limit the ability of a state to collect pertinent information, as well as limit a state's opportunity to exercise its legal right to provide comments on the decision.

Once again, we urge you not to include provisions that would open up the currently restricted areas of the OCS to oil and gas exploration in any energy legislation that is introduced or considered in the Senate.

Sincerely,



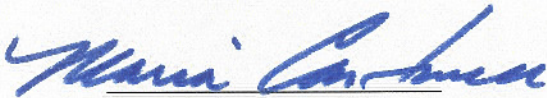
Elizabeth Dole
United States Senator



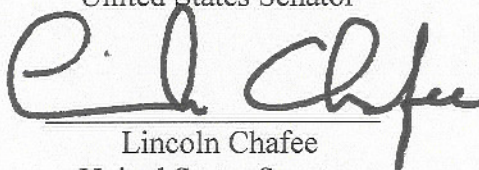
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



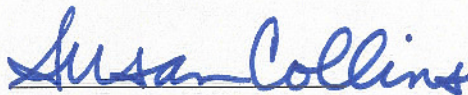
Richard Burr
United States Senator



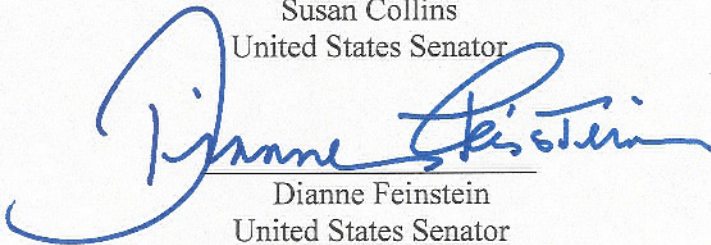
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



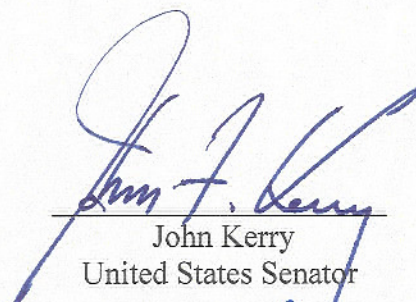
Lincoln Chafee
United States Senator



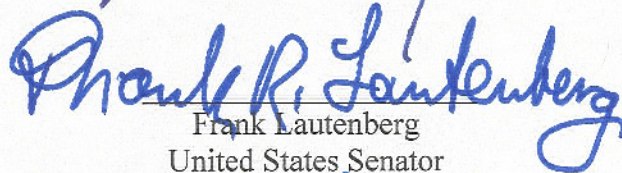
Susan Collins
United States Senator



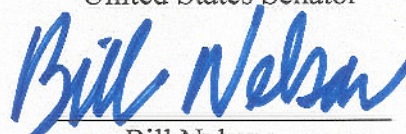
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



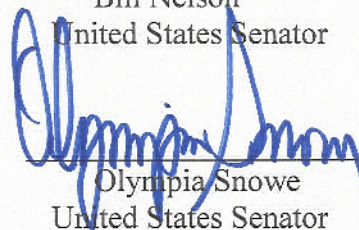
John Kerry
United States Senator



Frank Lautenberg
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Olympia Snowe
United States Senator